

**MINUTES OF THE  
SALT LAKE CITY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
18 September 2025  
BOARD MEETING**

Presiding: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair

Time: 12:31 p.m.

Place: 2215 North 2200 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Trustees Present: Neil Vickers, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
Luz Escamilla (Attended during agenda items 3 – 6)  
Dr. Shireen Mooers  
Van Turner

Trustees Excused: Amanda Barth, Chair

Others Present: Ary Faraji, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Aleta Fairbanks, CPA, CFO  
Michele Rehbein, Ph.D., Education Specialist (Left after item 4)

**1. Roll Call:**

Trustee Vickers called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded. No conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Approval of the 21 August 2025 Minutes of the Board of Trustees:**

The pending minutes of August's regular Board Meeting had been distributed to the Board Members previously, and no modifications were necessary. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve the 21 August 2025 Minutes of the Board of Trustees; the motion was seconded by Trustee Turner and carried with a unanimous vote.

**3. Presentation of the September 2025 Financial Statements and Approval of Bills for Payment:**

August's Financial Statements had been disseminated to the Trustees earlier in the week. CFO Fairbanks noted receiving a \$419.82 reimbursement for Executive Director's transportation fees from the Entomological Society of America. All expenditures were presented, with a total of \$400,399.54 being expended from the General and Capital Projects Funds. The Local Building Authority also made August's bond payments successfully. Special attention was paid to expenses over \$1,000.00. Documentation for the payments was reviewed when the checks were signed, and the credit card statements, supporting invoices/receipts for all payments, and Balance Sheets were made available for review. After everything had been presented, Trustee Escamilla made a motion to approve the August 2025 Financial Statements and bills for payment; Trustee Mooers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**4. Discussion and Approval for Website Design Services:**

Executive Director Faraji explained the efforts made to solicit website bids from four companies. So far, only one proposal has been received, but we anticipate receiving two more bids. Education Specialist Rehbein reviewed the submitted proposal with the Trustees and discussed the essential, functional, and advanced features we would like the website to incorporate. We are looking for an optimal combination of features that will provide intuitive navigation, deliver interesting and readily-understandable information, and ensure a positive user experience. We are seeking a website that will allow the flexibility for staff to add and update content once it has been established. Executive Director Faraji will create a committee, which will include a member of the board, to evaluate companies and make a recommendation to the board at a future meeting. After a discussion about cost, Trustee Escamilla made a motion to allow staff the flexibility to explore bids up to \$50,000 for website design. Her motion was seconded by Trustee Turner, and it carried with all in favor.

**5. Discussion and Approval for Collision Repair on Truck 21:**

Assistant Director White explained how Truck 21 had suffered a minor accident that damaged the bumper, the right panel, and taillight. Although the vehicle is old, mileage on the 2011 Chevrolet Truck is low and will still provide transportation for several more years. Trustee Mooers made a motion to approve payment of the estimate to repair the 2011 Chevrolet Silverado, Truck 21. The motion was seconded by Trustee Escamilla and passed unanimously.

**6. Update on Construction:**

Reports from our Owner's Representative, MOCA, and MHTN Architects were included in this month's board packet. A lot of progress occurred this past

month: sheetrock is being installed in the Laboratory this week, the hangar's footings are completed, and the concrete for the light posts has been poured. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the Salt Lake City water inspector to approve our tapping into the City's water system; we are also dealing with the complicated network of underground utilities and seeking ingenious means to route our utility lines to the desired locations. Enbridge has agreed to cut and cap off a section of some decommissioned gas lines at the front of the property, which is regrettably increasing costs.

Muddy messes will be reduced by completing the bottom half of the asphalt road before the asphalt plant is turned off for the winter. The larval bioassay vaults (LBVs) will be poured in about two weeks. Now, the hangar will not be completed until January or February of 2026. The construction company has promised to protect the asphalt during installation and will also be responsible for repairs if there is any damage. We are looking for a place to house the helicopter until the hangar is ready, and Eckman is willing to pay for some of the storage cost.

**7. Report on Attended and Reminder/Approval of Upcoming Training/Meetings:**

- **SOVE, 12-17 October 2025, Crete and Thessaloniki (plus USDA Visit)**

Executive Director Faraji, Assistant Director White, and Trustee Vickers are speaking at this conference in October. In addition to speaking, Executive Director Faraji will be running a symposium along with Dr. Vickers. Executive Director Faraji has also been asked to participate in a panel symposium as well as a podcast on careers in entomology.

- **UMAA, 27-29 October 2025, Park City, UT**

The Trustees were encouraged to attend the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association meeting in Park City. Trustees will be able to complete all of their required training in the afternoon of 27 October, which leaves them free to attend all of the conference on 28 - 29 October.

- **UASD, 5-7 November 2025, Layton, UT**

Assistant Director White, Executive Director Faraji, and CFO Fairbanks have found the Utah Association of Special Districts annual conference very informative. UASD provides a variety of classes providing legislative updates and other imperative information and guidelines. The Trustees were also encouraged to attend these meetings.

- **ESA, 9-12 November 2025, Portland, OR**

Executive Director Faraji, Laboratory Director Bibbs, and Molecular Biologist Byers are planning to attend and present at this year's ESA

conference. Executive Director Faraji will be completing his term as President of the Medical, Urban, and Veterinary Entomology section of the ESA at this meeting.

## **8. Executive Director's Report:**

The Trustees were given the following updates: 1) West Nile virus (WNV) continues to increase in Salt Lake City, and St. Louis encephalitis virus activity is also present this year. This is the second year that we have detected the St. Louis encephalitis virus in Salt Lake City. Colorado has 150 human-positive WNV cases with ten deaths, and Utah has 28 positive WNV human cases with only two deaths. 2) During Tuesday night's drone trials, active mosquito biting was abysmal; we will conduct an aerial application tonight to bring the mosquito numbers down. Fortunately, the mosquito numbers in our traps and the infected mosquito numbers have been dropping, but the season is long and September is the most crucial period when transmission to humans is highest. 3) This month's Director's Report includes a published article our seasonal researchers researched on evaluating commercial CO<sub>2</sub> regulators. This is the first publication that has been put out in collaboration with the Rockies and High Plains Vector-Borne Center of Excellence (Rahp Vec). 4) Trustee Vickers has been working to organize a joint meeting between the Pacific South West Center of Excellence and Rahp Vec. The University of Utah will be hosting the meeting, and it will run from the afternoon of 8 April 2026 through the morning of 10 April 2026. Student presentations and a tour will be conducted at our facility on Friday 10 April 2026. 5) We have been approached by Carroll-Loye Biological Research to evaluate a new larvicide formulation based on a yeast-encapsulated essential oil that has been developed by a researcher from the University of New Mexico. Scott Carroll and his assistant from UC Davis will be staying in the dormitory to conduct this research during the week of 22 September 2025. They will be testing the new larvicide in catch basins throughout Salt Lake City and in 20 tires at the facility. We are charging them \$25,000 to assist with their testing. This information will be submitted to the EPA for evaluations and potential labeling of a new mosquito control product. 6) October's Board Meeting will be held after the UMAA conference in Park City, but reasonable accommodation will be provided to the public by anchoring the meeting at the facility. 7) We luckily have a few remaining seasonal workers who are able to assist with surveillance and other imperative abatement operations.

## **9. Probable Agenda Items for 29 October 2025 Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m.:**

- Executive Director's Report
- Website Update
- Construction Update
- Personnel Update
- Surveillance Update
- Research Update

**10. Public Comment:**

No public was present.

**11. Adjournment:**

Trustees Turner and Mooers made and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m.; the motion passed unanimously.

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Ary Faraji, Executive Director

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Vickers, Vice-Chair 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date